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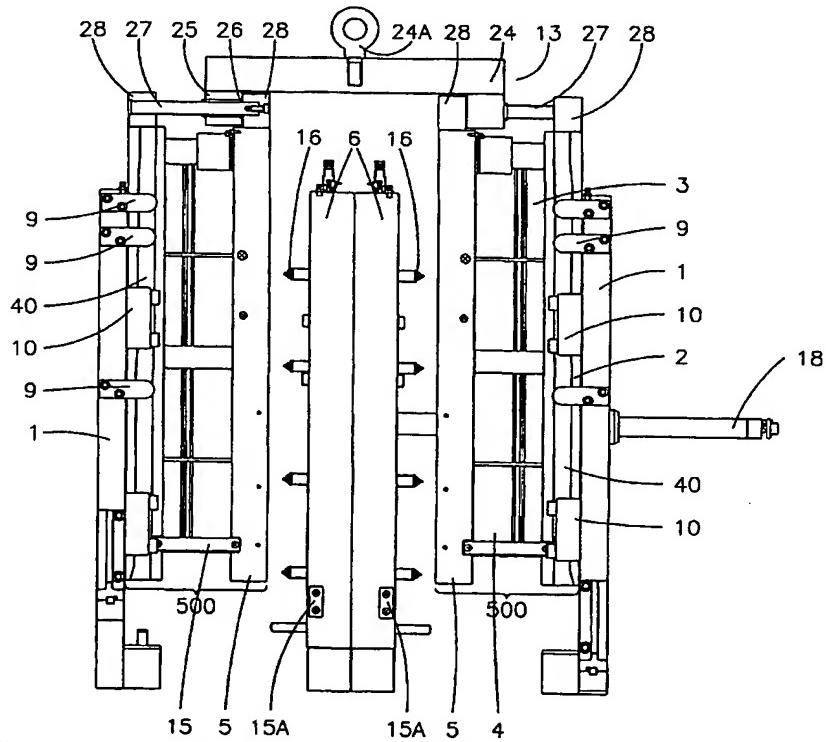
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INJECTNOTECH INC. [CA/CA]; 929 Pantera Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L4W 2R9 (CA).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): CICCONE, Vince [CA/CA]; 118 Rushworth Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario L0J 1C0 (CA).
- (74) Agent: RIDOUT & MAYBEE LLP; One Queen Street East, Suite 2400, Toronto, Ontario M5C 3B1 (CA).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MODULAR MOLD CHANGE SYSTEM



closed position, until the first cavity plate disengages the manifold plate and all connections thereto, (e) releasing the securing means which secures the core plate to the master core plate; (f) lifting said mold module in a direction perpendicular to the direction of motion between said open and closed position, said module being guided in said perpendicular direction by said guide means.

(57) Abstract: A method of removing components of an injection mold machine, comprising a core assembly including a master core plate (1), a core plate (2) releasably secured to said master core plate, said master core plate including guide means (9) for guiding said core plate (2) relative to said master core plate (1); a core insert (3) secured to said core plate (2); a cavity assembly comprising a manifold plate (6), a first cavity plate (5) releasably secured to the manifold plate (6), a cavity insert (4) attached to the cavity plate (5), said cavity assembly moveable relative to the core assembly such that the cavity insert (4) and core insert (3) may be selectively mated together to define a cavity therebetween, said method comprising the steps of: (a) moving the core assembly and cavity assembly into a closed position whereat the cavity insert and core insert are mated together; (b) securing said core plate to said cavity plate, thereby forming a mold module; (c) releasing the securing means which secures the cavity plate to the manifold plate; (d) opening the mold from the

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Published:

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- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 B29C45/17 B29C33/30 B29C45/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 B29C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6 106 265 A (VON HOLDT JOHN W) 22 August 2000 (2000-08-22) column 3, line 39 – column 5, line 64; figures 1,5,8	1-11, 14-23
Y	US 4 500 274 A (CYRIAX WILHELM ET AL) 19 February 1985 (1985-02-19) column 7, line 1 – column 10, line 13; figures 1-8	1,3,4, 7-10, 14-16, 18-20,23
Y	DOUGLAS M. BRYCE: "Plastics Injection Moulding... manufacturing process fundamentals" 1996, SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS , DEARBORNE, MI , XP002288452 page 72, line 1 – page 78, line 11	1-11, 14-23

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 October 2004

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lanz, P

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 171 094 B1 (VON HOLDT JOHN W) 9 January 2001 (2001-01-09) column 2, line 12 – column 4, line 65; figures 1,2,6,7 -----	24-30,33

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2004/000403

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

1-11, 14-30, 33

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/CA2004 /000403

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-11, 14-23

Method for changing a mould in an injection moulding machine.

2. claims: 12, 13

Hoist bar

3. claims: 24-30, 33

Apparatus for supporting mould plates on guide way or tie bar within a moulding machine

4. claims: 31-32

Apparatus for tightening a mould module on an injection moulding machine.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/CA2004/000403

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